

General

Q: What is the difference between Practicum and Internship?

A: **Practicum I & II** requirements consist of 10 interpreted events in 10 different areas of interpreting. A minimum amount of hours is not required for Practicum. Students' grades are based on the quality, variety, and completeness of the 10 events and the corresponding analyzes. **Internships (Community and Educational)** consist of 300 hours each. Students are required 120 hours of direct interpreting and 180 hours of indirect interpreting (preparation, post work, and analysis).

Q: How do eTroy students register for P&I?

A: P&I are technically on-campus classes but fulfilled via Blackboard (Bb). This enables (and we encourage) students to complete their P&I at home or where they will develop their interpreting practice. As such, registration is for on-campus classes (not online). To register, send your name, the course name and number for which you want to register (P&I), and your student I.D. number to itp@troy.edu and the Departmental Secretary will register you for the on-campus classes.

Practicum specific questions

Q: For Practicum I & II 10 Interpreted Events, does this mean I must attend 20 different events?

A: No and Yes. Practicum I & II are designed to be taken in the same semester. As such, 10 events can satisfy the requirements of both classes. In Practicum I, the pre-interpreting considerations are the focus and Practicum II, the during- and post-interpreting considerations are the focus. However, if the student takes the classes in two different semesters, 20 events will be required (10 events for Practicum I and later 10 events for Practicum II.)

Q: For Practicum assignments, is it the students' responsibility to find a mentor?

A: Yes, it is the student's responsibility to cultivate resources and find mentors for each of the 10 interpreted events described in this handbook. You may not use a Mentor more than one time. This is to ensure a variety (required for Practicum). In some cases (typically in rural areas where qualified interpreters are scarce), you may be permitted to use the same mentor with **prior approval** from the Practicum Faculty Supervisor. Please be advised that lack of time is not a valid rationale for using a mentor twice. Try to get a variety of certified interpreters to mentor you throughout your Practicum. Mentors cannot be students in any Associates/Bachelor level Interpreter Training Program. You should be networking with interpreters in your area early enough in the training program to facilitate finding mentors who meet your needs and will be considered qualified for specific interpreted events.

Q: How does each student find the 10 interpreted events?

A: Start early which does not mean early in the semester. This means start early in your interpreter training program. As part of the Fieldwork hours required of all of the ASL and interpreting classes, students should be taking the names and contact information of interpreters in their area and cultivating these resources and relationships. Ways in which qualified mentors can be found are by attending interpreting workshops, local and state interpreting organizations, schools with deaf students and interpreters, RID database searches for interpreters in your area, etc. Please remember that for each interpreted event in Practicum, you must have a mentor interpreter present. Be creative! You and a mentor can interpret a public event for which there are no interpreting services needed. Public libraries, parks and recreation, churches, performances, etc. are ideal places to provide interpreting to satisfy some requirements.

Q: How will the Practicum interpreted events and requirements affect working professionals/interpreters?

A: Practicum interpreted events are to be done outside of your job, as these interpreted events cannot be done for remuneration. You are free to complete these requirements on a schedule that works for you: mornings, afternoons, evenings, or weekends. Although the preparation, debriefing, and analysis will take a lot of time, the Practicum is yours to create. Start early if scheduling around your working hours is an issue. All students, including working interpreters, are required to satisfy all requirements in Practicum courses. P&I classes are classes where all of the work must be completed. Failure to complete any aspect of the course, will result in failure of the course.

Q: For Practicum interpreting events, is it the students' responsibility to obtain permissions and to videotape interpreting events?

A: Yes, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that at least 3 events are videotaped (one at the beginning of the semester, one at mid-term, and one toward the end of the semester) for analysis. The student is responsible to obtain all authorizations for videotaping and to provide equipment.

Q: How do students set up interpreting events?

A: Students are responsible to cultivate the varied interpreted events. There are 16 weeks in a semester. Prior to and not later than Week 1 the student should plan and map out a plan of action (which must be approved and all subsequent changes must be approved). For the next ten weeks, the student can participate in one interpreted event per week, remembering that the "variety" criterion requires at least one ongoing interpreted event. (Practicum I class includes the pre-acceptance and pre-interpreted event aspects of the work and Practicum II class includes the actual interpreting and observation, debrief, and analysis of the event.) This leaves 5 weeks extra in case of cancellation or other needs. Students should begin submitting all work on each event to the Blackboard course room for student input and feedback. Prior to (Week 14 and not later than end of Week 15) the completion of the course, students will submit a Practicum Package to the Faculty Supervisor in a printed form including video analysis of at least 3 interpreted events (one at the beginning, one mid-way through Practicum, and one terminal video.)

Q: What tests must be taken during Practicum?

A: You are required to take a validated written test of knowledge, not pass it (CDI, EIPA, NIC, or BEI). It is hoped that you will pass it, however, that is not required until completion of Internship. Successfully passing one of the validated written tests (CDI, EIPA, NIC, or BEI) will be an exit requirement from the program. This will also be required prior to being provided a mentor in the externship phase. Externship mentors will be provided post-graduation for those seeking certification (CDI, EIPA 4.0 or above, NIC or BEI.) This will require having successfully completed the applicable written test.

Internship specific questions

Q: How will Internship requirements affect working professionals/interpreters?

A: Similar to Practicum interpreted events, Internship hours cannot be paid interpreted events. These hours must be done outside of work. No paid work may be included in any work done for P&I credit. As a candidate for a Bachelor's degree, there are requirements that must be met by all within defined timelines. If absolutely necessary for unforeseen and extenuating circumstances, with the P&I Supervisor's approval, students can defer $\frac{1}{4}$ of the required hours to the summer for completion. These hours may only be deferred when all of the work in P&I has been completed by the end of the course minus $\frac{1}{4}$ of the required events or hours with one corresponding videotaping and analysis. All other requirements must have been completed.

Q: For Internship, how many Mentors can a student have?

A: Students are required to have 2 primary mentors, 1 for their educational Internship and 1 for community Internship. These mentors will be the main point of contact for both the SI and Troy University. The mentor may allow the student to work with other certified interpreters for some interpreted events, but a debriefing session must be done between the SI and the mentor.

Q: How many hours are required for Internship?

A: Each Internship course requires a total of 300 hours. 120 of those hours will be direct interpreting (teaming and actively interpreting, less than 1/3 of all interpreted events may be observed for credit) with a certified mentor as an Interpreter Mentor. The remaining 180 hours will be compiled during preparation and post-interpreted event work. You are expected to set your pace, plan your own events, and submit all necessary documentation on your own without prompting or reminding at a pace that evidences completing the work throughout the semester. Failure to do so will result in failure of the class. Unlike courses at the Freshmen through Junior years, to successfully pass, students must demonstrate completion of all requirements. Grades are assigned based on the quality of the work; however, all requirements must be met.

Q: What tests must be taken during Internship?

A: Students are required to:

- 1.) Take and pass one of the written test of interpreting knowledge (CDI, EIPA, NIC, or BEI).
- 2.) Take one of the performance tests (CDI, BEI, NIC, or EIPA). However, passing is not a requirement for Internship. Those with existing certifications must take a test of their choosing to diversity or increase their existing certification (e.g., if someone possesses RID CI/CI, taking the EIPA, NIC or SC:L would satisfy this requirement.)
- 3.) iTEP English Proficiency testing at a 5 or above (*information about iTEP will be provided during Practicum & Internships*).
- 4.) SLPI Advanced or better (*information SLPI testing is provided on the Troy ITP website*).